

Remarks on the Resignation of the Vice President's Chief of Staff I. Lewis Libby  
*October 28, 2005*

Today I accepted the resignation of Scooter Libby. Scooter has worked tirelessly on behalf of the American people and sacrificed much in the service to this country. He served the Vice President and me through extraordinary times in our Nation's history.

Special Counsel Fitzgerald's investigation and ongoing legal proceedings are serious, and now the proceedings—the process moves into a new phase. In our system, each individual is presumed innocent and entitled to due process and a fair trial.

While we're all saddened by today's news, we remain wholly focused on the many issues and opportunities facing this country. I've got a job to do and so do

the people who work in the White House. We've got a job to protect the American people, and that's what we'll continue working hard to do.

I look forward to working with Congress on policies to keep this economy moving. And pretty soon, I'll be naming somebody to the Supreme Court.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:51 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Department of Justice CIA leak investigation Special Prosecutor.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Request To Reallocate Emergency Funds for Further Response and Recovery Efforts in the Regions Affected by Hurricane Katrina  
*October 28, 2005*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina across the Gulf Coast States has required an unprecedented response by Federal, State, and local governments, as well as the private sector. To date, I have signed into law two supplemental appropriations bills totaling \$62.3 billion for hurricane-related disaster relief.

To further assist the region in its continued recovery in a fiscally responsible way, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed reallocation request to provide \$17.1 billion in emergency funds for further response and recovery efforts, by reallocating available funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund. I hereby designate this proposal in

the amount requested herein as an emergency requirement. This request will provide further assistance to meet the needs of victims, continue the rebuilding and repair of the region's infrastructure, and accelerate the return of Federal agencies to facilities in the region.

To further efforts to offset the unprecedented cost of this disaster and control the growth in discretionary spending, I also will be sending you a separate rescissions proposal reducing funding for lower-priority programs and eliminating excess funds. By holding 2006 nonsecurity discretionary spending below a freeze and achieving additional savings through reconciliation legislation, we will advance our efforts to maintain fiscal discipline while continuing to

provide for the needs of hurricane-affected States.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously on this request to ensure that the Federal response to these disasters continues uninterrupted.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting  
Proposed Budget Rescissions  
*October 28, 2005*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

Today, in a separate message, I have asked the Congress to reallocate \$17.1 billion of available funding in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund to provide for further response and recovery efforts in the regions affected by Hurricane Katrina.

As a further measure to ensure fiscal responsibility as we continue our unprecedented response to Hurricane Katrina, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request to rescind \$2.3 billion from lower-priority Federal programs and excess funds.

As we help the people of the Gulf Coast region recover and rebuild from Hurricane Katrina, it is more important than ever to

redouble our efforts to reduce unnecessary spending elsewhere in the budget.

In concert with this rescission proposal, I urge the Congress to reduce Fiscal Year 2006 nonsecurity spending below last year's levels, as proposed in my Budget. In addition, I urge the Congress to achieve the maximum amount of mandatory savings through reconciliation legislation over the next 5 years. These actions will advance our shared goal to maintain fiscal responsibility as we continue our assistance to hurricane-affected regions.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

The President's Radio Address  
*October 29, 2005*

Good morning. This week marked another important milestone in carrying out our strategy in Iraq. On Tuesday, the Iraqi election commission formally certified the passage of the new Iraqi Constitution, after nearly 10 million Iraqis turned out to vote on it 2 weeks ago. This is a moment of tremendous significance for Iraq, the region, and the world. Three years ago, when Saddam Hussein ruled with an iron grip,

the prospect of Iraqis voting on a democratic constitution would have been unthinkable. Now, the Iraqi people have shown that individual rights and rule by the people are universal principles and that these principles can become the basis for free and decent governments throughout the Middle East.

The new Iraqi Constitution received support from Iraqis of all ethnic and religious